ZERO BEAT

Hampden County Radio Association W1NY

Our 76th Year as an ARRL Affiliated Club

January 2025

Renewal Reminder

Annual Dues were due at the beginning of September. It's an easy thing to forget, so please check the membership list at hcra.org/current-members to see if yours has expired. We gladly accept renewals by mail or online - see the site for details.

Thanks for renewing!

In This Issue

From the Assistant Editor:

Poor Ken. The guy can't catch a break. I'll let him tell his own stories, but let's just say his life over the past few months hasn't exactly followed the plan. Instead of saying "if all goes well," perhaps I should say "if anything goes well," he should be able to get back to editing this newsletter sometime soon. The two people most anxious for that to happen are Ken and me, but I'm sure the rest of you will also appreciate a return to the production standards that won the "Best Ham Radio Newsletter in New England" award last year. In the meantime, we've got this.

There's a little more content this month, thanks to a story I lifted from the ARRL's Western Massachusetts Section news site, an article from Marvin, W0MET, and a piece I managed to dash off about radio direction finding. Once again, I'll repeat the plea for content. Publishing in Zero Beat won't get you much fame or any fortune, but it's an easy way to share what you're doing with your fellow club members. If you don't think anyone's interested in your latest ham radio adventure, you're wrong. So please, send us your stories.

73 de Alan, AB1XW

January Meeting: DXing in Paradise

Just in time for winter to set in, our own Nick Maslon, K1NZ, will take us to the tropical South Pacific island of Vanuatu, at least vicariously. Nick was a member of a DXpedition team that put the island on the air last year, operating from a resort hotel amid the palm trees. This should be a really fun talk - come join us in person or online.

Upcoming Meetings

September 6, 2024	In September, we heard all about AREDN™, the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network, in an excellent presentation by Orv Beach, W6BI.
October 4, 2024	HCRA member Jeff Bail, NT1K, will talk about 3D printing for ham radio projects. Need a case for that nifty new thing you built? Print one! Jeff will tell us how.
November 1, 2024	Our annual auction is back! Bring ham radio gear or accessories to sell, and get a good price on that thing you've been looking for. NO computers, monitors, etc.
December, 2024	The Holiday Party originally planned for December 3rd is canceled. Enjoy the holiday month, and please join us when regular meetings resume in January.
January 3, 2025	As the chill of winter grips our area, Nick Maslon, K1NZ, will tell us about his DXpedition to the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu. Hear about palm trees, coconuts, and pileups.
February 7, 2025	Do those hills near your house affect your HF signal, and what can you do to improve it? Ken Miller, WB1DX, will tell us all about terrain analysis for DXing.
March 7, 2025	Have you ever bounced signals off the moon? Bill Larned, KA1WHT, will tell us how even relatively small stations can set up to tackle Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) communication.
April 11, 2025	April is our "Show and Tell" meeting. Bring whatever radio-related project you've been working on, show it off, and hear what other club members have been doing.
May 2, 2025	TBA
June 6, 2025	Field Day, Elections, and more! June's meeting is when we make final preparations for Field Day, elect the Board for next year, and get ready for our summer hiatus.

From the President's Desk

Crude but effective **Alan Dove, AB1XW**

Having spent my entire career working in and reporting on biomedical research, I've seen a lot of laboratories. While they vary a lot from place to place, they fall into two general categories: analytical and experimental. Analytical labs, the kinds of places that process routine blood tests, examine mineral samples for mining, or test public water supplies, tend to look a lot like the Hollywood version of a "laboratory." They have well-maintained equipment, clean surfaces, and staff wearing spotless lab coats and safety glasses.

Experimental labs, on the other hand, tend toward chaos. A graduate student in a t-shirt and jeans sits at one bench scrawling numbers on petri dishes with a Sharpie, while a couple of similarly-dressed postdocs are poking at a mess of tubing and wires nearby. Duct tape is usually close at hand. Research is about doing things that have never been done before; improvising comes with the territory.

This division isn't unique to wet labs. Engineers understand the difference between prototype and production, and computer code often has separate development and stable branches. Sometimes we need to hack, rearrange, and break stuff. Other times, we need it to Just Work.

Amateur radio also has this split, and individual hams often lean into one side or the other. If you're into emergency and public service communication, you may want to buy well-built equipment and configure it for maximum reliability, so you can show up anywhere and establish the necessary communication links. Consistency is your friend. Another ham might be testing the limits of propagation at one of the extreme ends of the spectrum: microwaves or

ultra-low frequencies. Their gear is an ever-evolving pile of transverters, interfaces, and antenna designs.

Most of us fall somewhere in between, mostly using off-the-shelf equipment and software but also tinkering a bit from time to time. The deeper you go into a particular aspect of this enormous hobby, the more your setup will adapt to it. A contester's station sprouts a tower and some beams, while a POTA fan refines their go-bag and wire antennas.

I tend toward general-purpose gear that I can rearrange like Legos for different activities. There are a couple of mid-market 100-wat HF base transceivers, some wire antennas, an assortment of portable rigs, and an ever-growing collection of accessories, cables, and connectors.

Nothing is fully optimized for any specific activity, and that's how I like it. Whenever I get the urge to try something new, or dive deeper into

From the President's Desk

(continued) **Alan Dove, AB1XW**

something I've done before, it turns into a delightful adventure. Here's what I have, here's what I want to accomplish, now how do I do it? The result is seldom pretty or efficient, but whenever I manage to get one of my lash-ups to work at all, it feels like a major victory. Inevitably, I also gain a new understanding of some aspect of radio.

My first POTA activation, for example, took place a couple of years ago during the New England QSO Party. I threw the whole operation together the morning the contest started, rooting through my equipment to dig out a tiny MTR-3 CW transceiver, measuring and cutting wires for an end-fed antenna, and stuffing everything into a bag to haul to a nearby park. In a couple of hours, I worked a whopping 11 QSOs. It wasn't impressive as either a POTA activation or a contest entry, but I had a blast and learned a lot.

About a month ago, I finally acquired a more sophisticated portable HF rig, a Lab599 Discovery 500. After some familiarization and testing in my home shack, I wanted to take it to the field. That led to another improvised POTA effort, this time with a 17-foot telescoping whip clamped to a large tent stake as the centerpiece of the antenna system. While it was slightly more sophisticated than my NEQP setup a couple of years before, it was still very much a work in progress.

I operated sitting in the passenger seat of my car, with a mess of wires going everywhere and various station components scattered on the floor. My miniature CW paddles started falling apart at one point, and the earbuds I'd brought had a loose connection, but I managed enough QSOs for a valid activation. I expect my portable HF setup to evolve further as I do more park activations, and maybe at some point I'll even think about things like ergonomics and cable management.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, I've written about another half-baked radio adventure, in which I charged out on a cold Saturday morning to find a hidden transmitter. I failed, then thought a bit more about the problem, and finally succeeded.

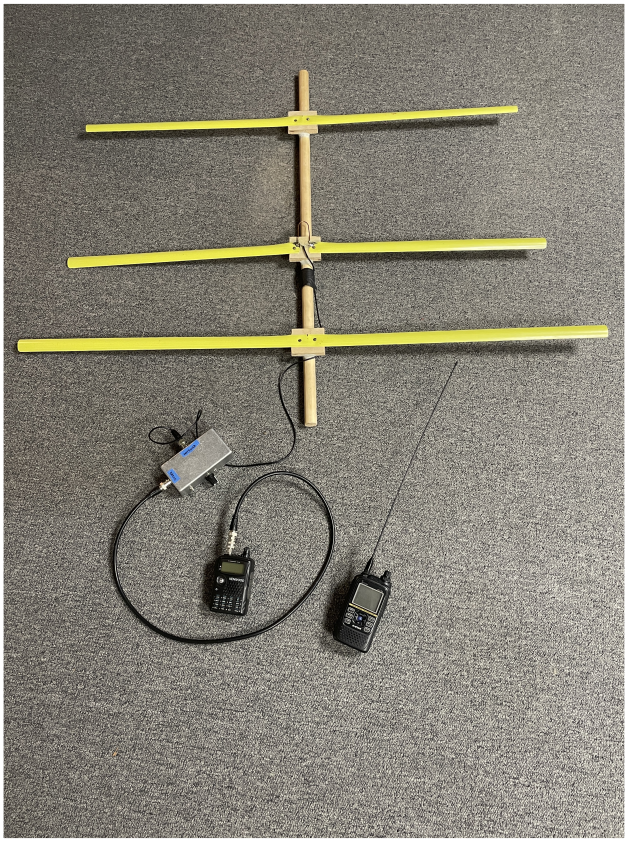
Perfect is the enemy of good enough, and elegant solutions grow best from the wet manure of clunky prototypes and experiments. If you're happy DXing with your highly-optimized HF station, or pushing your score up in the next contest with the ideal SO2R configuration, great. But if you feel the need to explore new territory, don't feel obliged to get just the right gear first. Just take what you have and see what you can do. You might be surprised how far you get.

73 de Alan, AB1XW

A Saturday Morning Fox Hunt

Overthinking the problem **Alan Dove, AB1XW**

One Friday night in early December, Larry Krainson, W1AST, forwarded an email to the WMAFoxHunters email reflector, announcing that a hidden transmitter, or "fox box," was now active somewhere in the area, waiting for people to find it. The game was afoot. Having put together a tape-measure beam antenna and offset attenuator for exactly this purpose, I decided to go find the transmitter the next morning.



Hunting hidden transmitters is one of the many sub-hobbies within amateur radio, and it runs deep. There's a whole international competitive scene with an annual world championship in amateur radio direction finding (ARDF). Locating a fox box is to that what jogging around the block is to the Boston Marathon, but we have to start somewhere.

A fox box is a small, self-contained package built into an ammo can or similar watertight container. It holds a VHF FM radio, a battery, and a controller that listens on a frequency for a DTMF tone. When the DTMF signal comes in, the system transmits a series of audio tones and a station ID for 30 seconds, providing a signal that hunters can home in on.

I found I could activate the fox box from my base VHF FM station on low power (5 watts). Switching to an HT, I could activate it from my living room with the same power level, using my tape measure beam antenna pointed roughly southwest. The beam also allowed me to peak the signal from the fox, consistent with it being somewhere on a northeast-to-southwest line from my house. Based on the signal levels, it was likely somewhere in town.

Armed with that information and lots of optimism, I tossed an armload of loose gear into my car and headed to a park south of me. From there, the signal was very strong and more or less due west. I thought it might be in that park, so I started trying to attenuate its signal while walking in what I thought was its general direction. That was when things started to get messy.

While both the beam antenna and the attenuator seem to work well, I hadn't bothered to attach them to each other with anything besides a few feet of coaxial cable. Another few feet of cable connected the attenuator to the HT I was using to receive the fox. It's important not to transmit through the attenuator, so I was also carrying another HT that I was using to transmit

A Saturday Morning Fox Hunt

(cont'd) **Alan Dove, AB1XW**

the activation signal to the fox. Imagine juggling an untrimmed tree branch and three small bricks while trudging across a snowy field, and you have a pretty good idea of how I must have looked. This setup clearly needs some refinement.

The purpose of the attenuator was to reduce the signal strength as I got close to the fox. Otherwise, when I got within a fraction of a mile I'd just have a full-scale signal across a wide swath of bearings, which isn't helpful. By switching in the attenuator, I hoped to bring the signal down enough that I could see changes in the meter as I swung the beam antenna around. Indeed, the attenuator did reduce the signal - to nothing. I was apparently still too far from the fox to use that strategy, but at the same time I was too close to get precise beam headings.

On a hunch, I tried driving about a half-mile west to a shopping center parking lot. From there, I could activate the fox on my HT's lowest power, and the signal was now full scale in all directions but still too weak for the attenuator. After a few more rounds of driving to new parking lots and seeing how much power I needed to activate the fox, I was too cold to keep at it, so I went back home.

While warming myself up, it occurred to me that I could try a method I used years ago when I lived in New York City. A local repeater club was trying to track down a jammer, and asked everyone to get approximate bearings and signal strengths. Back then, I didn't have any dedicated direction-finding equipment, so I'd used the "body block" method, holding an HT in front of me and rotating around until the signal dipped. The bearing to the transmitter was then directly behind me. My scrawny torso creates a pretty sharp null that way, much sharper than the peaks I was seeing with my beam antenna.

I've accumulated several "rubber duck" antennas for my HTs over the years, ranging from longer, relatively high-gain units to a two-inch stub that's barely better than a dummy load in gain. That, plus body blocking and a few other tricks, could be my attenuators.

Returning to the first park, I found I could activate the fox with a long HT antenna, and get a sharp null when holding the radio in front of my body and facing east. Subsequent sessions of testing at the shopping center, and then an elementary school parking lot, got me close enough that I could activate the fox with the tiniest antenna on low power. At that point, it was coming in full strength in all directions, and I couldn't null it out with my chest.

A Saturday Morning Fox Hunt

(cont'd) **Alan Dove, AB1XW**

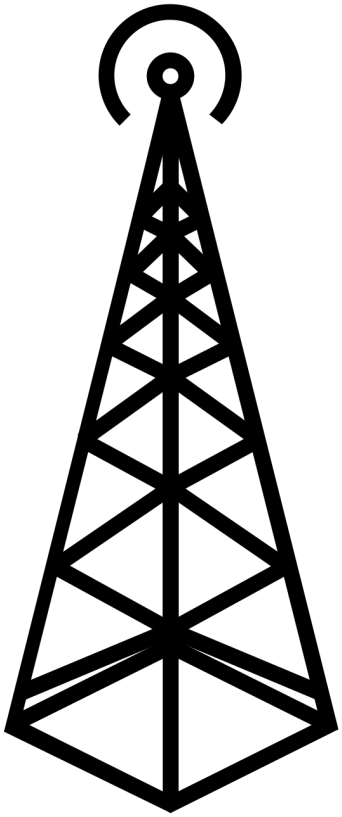
To attenuate the signal further, I turned the HT so the antenna was parallel to the ground, cross-polarized from the vertical antenna on the fox. When that wasn't enough, I tuned my radio slightly off-frequency, so the fox was coming in through the skirt of the passband. That got me another bearing that headed off the school grounds. That was puzzling.

The fox box is supposed to be on publicly accessible property, but I live in this town and know for a fact that there aren't any other parks or parking lots close to that elementary school. So where was it? One thought occurred to me, but I dismissed it as too obvious. Then I noticed a vehicle festooned with antennas in the same parking lot, and suspected it was another ham I'd heard hunting the fox that morning. Sure enough, it was, and he gave me a hint: he'd found it chained to a tree in front of a house very nearby - a house with a big HF beam on the roof.

My too-obvious thought had been exactly right. Pulling up in front of Larry's house a minute later, I saw the fox box chained out front, next to the curb. That does count as publicly accessible, even if it wasn't quite what I'd expected.

This was a great way to spend a Saturday morning, and I learned a lot. My next little project will be to figure out a better way to carry the attenuator and HTs, and I may solder a short wire to a BNC connector to make an even lower-gain "antenna" for very close-in signal attenuation.

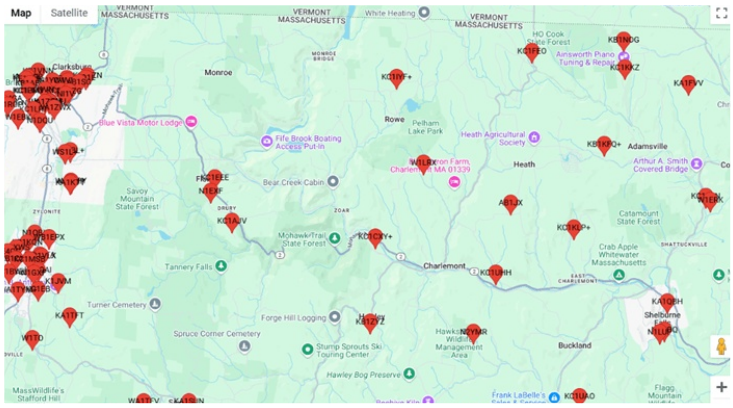
The box in front of Larry's house was actually placed there by the Connecticut foxhunting club; HCRA owns a couple of fox boxes, but we don't currently have anyone to maintain and place them. If hiding transmitters for others to find sounds fun, please let Larry know and he can show you how to do it. I'd love to be able to do more of these local hunts, and encourage everyone else to give it a try too. As I discovered, it doesn't take sophisticated gear.



The 2024 WMA SET

A Simulated Emergency Test **Charles Chandler, WS1L**

The Simulated Emergency Test for the Western Massachusetts Section ran from 0830 to 1200 local (1330-1700 Zulu) Sunday, 10 November 2024. We developed a scenario based upon Hurricane Helene and its impact in the mountainous terrain of western North Carolina. In our scenario heavy rainfall over the Western Massachusetts area began to fall on soil already saturated from prior storms. Over the course of 24 hours rainfall totals across the area ranged from 11 to 31 inches. The resulting damage to infrastructure left many areas isolated. Cellular, landline, roads and power were destroyed in many areas. Water systems were damaged or contaminated in many areas.



Amateur radio operators checked in to our regular ARES Nets and reported damage in their immediate area using a simplified reporting system that accounts for building damage, flooding and transportation status. Net Control Stations collected reports from their check-in stations and forwarded this data out of the affected area via WinLink or email, in the same manner as was done in Hurricane Helene.

Participating stations were given 90 minutes to send damage reports and could use any one of multiple channels ranging from VHF and UHF FM to HF single sideband voice. Repeaters on Mount Greylock, Mount Tom and other locations provided wide-area coverage. Net Control Stations were given 2 hours to move information out of affected areas. We demonstrated our unique capabilities in several ways:

Dispersed: Operators are located throughout the Commonwealth
Resilient: Operators are capable of maintaining, repairing and adapting their own stations to meet the needs of the situation or to compensate for damage
Redundant: The only service authorized to use multiple bands and modes of operation, with the experience to choose the method most suitable to the situation

I am pleased to report that 30 stations participated in our SET. Reports were received from almost every corner of the WMA Section.

After Action Review

Thing that went well:

1. Participants reported being well prepared for the exercise. Extensive pre-exercise publicity led to informed participants.
2. Reporting nets went smoothly, participants understood the situation, what they needed to do, and what info was requested
3. Franklin County was able to find a location to set up in the field after finding out Greenfield was

The 2024 WMA SET

(cont'd) **Charles Chandler, WS1L**

lacking an EOC
4. County-level collaboration worked well between ARES leadership and gave a sense of the simulated magnitude of the event

Areas we could improve:

1. Some voice traffic was passed too quickly for accurate copy, requiring time-consuming repeats.
2. Backhaul needs more resiliency. Internet-based email can work when net control is outside the affected area but WinLink, NBEMS, DMR or other options should be improved.
3. More ARES members should be capable of setting up in the field in case of damage to home stations or other need.
4. More county/community level leadership to triage reports when the traffic level is larger.

I would like to thank every participant who helped to make the SET a success, in particular the Net Control Stations who were key in making this work as well as it did. As we saw in North Carolina, the work of the NCS is a critical component in these efforts.

I hope to see you all again next year for SET 2025!

Editor's note: WS1L is the Section Emergency Coordinator for the Western Massachusetts ARES section.

Unlocking VOACAP

A free propagation predictor **Marvin Turner, W0MET**

Some of you may have heard of this tool for predicting HF contacts on bands, at a time of day for making a QSO. If you have not heard of this I hope that you will stay tuned and learn something new that will help and put a new tool in your toolbox. I'm talking about propagation prediction with VOACAP (Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program). Whether you're planning your next DX contact or preparing for a contest, understanding propagation is key, and VOACAP is one of the most powerful tools at your disposal.

What is VOACAP?

VOACAP is a high-frequency (HF) propagation prediction tool originally developed for Voice of America. Over the years, it's become a favorite among amateur radio operators for its reliability and versatility. With its ability to model HF signal paths between any two locations on Earth, VOACAP gives you valuable insights into when and where your signal will be most effective.

Why Use VOACAP?

Propagation can be unpredictable, influenced by solar activity, geomagnetic conditions, and the ionosphere's state. VOACAP takes the guesswork out of the equation by leveraging 50+ years of scientific research and development on HF propagation to provide:

• Predicted Signal Strengths: Evaluate the likelihood of making a successful contact.
• Best Bands to Use: Identify which bands are most likely to provide reliable communication.
• Optimal Times for DXing: Discover the best windows for working distant stations.
• Detailed Point-to-Point graphs and Area Coverage maps for 22 parameters of circuit quality such as
  ◦ SNR (Signal-to-Noise Ratio)
  ◦ Reliability
  ◦ Required Power Gain
  ◦ Signal Power
  ◦ Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF)
  ◦ Takeoff/Arrival Angle, and more

Getting Started with VOACAP

VOACAP offers several interfaces, ranging from simple web-based tools to advanced desktop software. I have only used the online tool and not downloaded any applications at this point.

1. VOACAP Online: Visit www.voacap.com for an easy-to-use web interface. Input your location, target location, antenna details, and the system will generate predictions in seconds. This is very impressive and provides about a 85-95% accuracy I would say.

2. VOACAP Software: For more detailed analysis, download the desktop application from www.voacap.com/download.html. It provides advanced settings and customization options for in-depth predictions.

3. VOACAP Widgets: If you're on the go, consider using mobile-friendly widgets like VOACAP propagation maps or prediction charts.

Tips for Accurate Predictions

Unlocking VOACAP

(cont'd) **Marvin Turner, W0MET**

To get the most out of VOACAP, keep these tips in mind:
• Be Accurate with Input Data: Ensure your station details, such as antenna type and transmitter power, are entered correctly.
• Check Real-Time Solar Data: Propagation conditions can change rapidly. Pair VOACAP predictions with real-time solar indices like the K-index and solar flux.
• Experiment and Compare: Use VOACAP predictions as a guide, but always experiment on the bands to validate the forecasts.

Applications Beyond HF

While VOACAP is primarily known for HF DXing predictions, it's also useful for:
• Planning Emergency Communications: Predict the best frequencies for reliable communication during disasters.
• Supporting Expeditions: Optimize communication plans for DXpeditions to remote locations.

Final Thoughts

VOACAP is a game-changer for amateur radio operators who want to optimize their HF operations. It takes only seconds to create that calculation for you. By understanding and leveraging its capabilities, you can unlock new opportunities to make more contacts, explore new bands, and enhance your overall ham radio experience.

If you haven't tried VOACAP yet, now's the time! Whether you're chasing rare DX or simply trying to understand how propagation works, this tool is an indispensable part of your toolkit.

Share Your VOACAP Stories!

Have you used VOACAP to score an amazing contact or improve your station's performance? I'd love to hear about it! Send us your stories and screenshots, and we'll feature them in an upcoming podcast. Email me at W0MET@thehamradioguy.com

As I say at the end of every podcast: In the chair and on the air. — The Ham Radio Guy 73 W0MET

Editor's note: This article is adapted from an episode of Marvin's podcast, The Ham Radio Guy, which is freely available on major podcasting platforms..

For Sale

Ham globally, buy locally

From Harold, N1FTP

Heathkit RF Generator (Laboratory Generator) $80.00
Heathkit VTVM $30.00
Heathkit Audio Generator $50.00
Heathkit DX-35 w/VF-1 and separate PS for VF-1 $90.00
Hammarlund HQ-129A $90.00
Hammarlund HQ-110 $90.00
Drake R4-C/T-4XC/MS-4 $500

All items are in working condition. All units come with manuals. The Drake also comes with manuals and 2 sets of cables and has all 3 filters installed.

I can be reached at N1FTP@yahoo.com. Thank you, Harold de N1FTP

From Larry, W1AST

Kenwood TS-480SAT

Remote head standard. 160-6m at 100 watts. Buttons backlit for easy night operation. Built in antenna tuner. Rig easy to remote. Beautful Kenwood audio. Mic, power cord, manuals and original box included. Big, easy to read display.

For Sale at: $550.00

More info: https://www.kenwood.com/usa/com/amateur/ts-480sat/

Contact: Larry, W1AST
W1AST@arrl.net

For Sale

(cont'd)

From Carol, W1LGU

Elecraft KPA-500 amplifier:

500W, compact, solid state FET amplifier for 160-6m. Works and automatically selects band with any radio that provides key-out and RF signals. Used sparingly, non-smoking household. Originally $2795. Asking $2200.

Brand-new FX-4CR QRP transceiver:

This is a new SDR transceiver developed by BG2FX. It covers all major HF bands, and includes wide-band receive capabilities. Its small size (1 lb) and built-in speaker and microphone allow ultra-portable operation. A simple built-in USB sound card interface enables simple operation on digital modes.

Transmits and receives on 80-6m; 2.0" TFT display screen; spectrum display and 48 kHz waterfall plot, dual VFO operation, and many more features. $500.

Contact Carol, W1LGU: 413.527.7165 or W1LGU@arrl.net

Located in Easthampton, MA

For Sale

(cont'd)

From Marvin, W0MET

Three Small Form Factor Computers:

All similar to the one shown here:

1 HP i5 6500T 256GB SSD. 8gb Ram Windows 10
1 Lenovo. Thinkcente M910q i7 -6700. 16gb Ram and Win 10
1 Lenovo Thinkcentre 73 i5 256GB 8 GB Ram and Win 10

Asking $50 apiece for them. All still really good computers. I just dont need that many. They have been completely factory reset with a fresh install of Windows 10 as of November 1st.

Email or call me at 651-357-3592

These are great still for doing logging, Winlink Express and WSJT-X.

From Larry, KD1RV

Elecraft KPA-500 amplifier and KAT-500 tuner for sale:

Elecraft KPA-500, $2,000; KAT-500 tuner, $500. Both used very little and have manuals and accessory items that came with them, and original boxes and packing.

Contact Larry, KD1RV at 413.592.5994 or email larrydziobek@gmail.com.

Join or Renew your ARRL Membership through HCRA!

We earn a commission for memberships and renewals processed through the club. Please fill out the form and mail it to **Hampden County Radio Association, PO Box 562, Agawam, MA 01001**. DO NOT send it directly to the ARRL, or we don't get the commission.

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®

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My Family Member is Joining or Renewing: ($12 per member)

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Name _____ Call Sign _____

☐ Please note my new address ☐ I do not want my name and address made available for non-ARRL related mailings

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Circle Your Choice (rates effective Jan. 1, 2024)

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Standard membership	$59	$174
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Student (must be under age 26)	$30	
Blind (requires one-time statement of legal blindness)	$12	$36

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- Logbook of The World®, contests, and award programs

...and more!

*A print subscription for *QST* and/or *On the Air* requires an ARRL membership. Dues and subscription rates are subject to change without notice and are non-refundable

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CLUB
form rev 1/24

HCRA Stuff

HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club

Groups.io and HCRA.org

In between Zero Beat issues, keep up with what's going on in the club by visiting our web site at:

hcra.org

We also discuss club activities and ham radio in general on our email reflector. Sign up by visiting:

groups.io/g/hcra

HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

Outgoing cards from members are sent to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau quarterly: January 15th, April 15th, June 15th, and September 15th. For details, visit:

hcra.org/dx-qsl

Or contact Paul, NF1G at:

paulkelliher@comcast.net

Zero Beat Ads

If you have radios or other ham-related gear you'd like to sell or trade, or if you're searching for something, you can list it right here in Zero Beat at no charge. To submit ads, simply send an email to Ken:
kd1ku@arrl.net

Include a brief description of the item or items, a way for people to contact you, and your asking price.

Dots and Dashes

Stuff that doesn't fit anywhere else

Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

"Brown Baggers" is a friendly lunch get-together held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, for the benefit of all HCRA members. It's held at the Munich Haus Restaurant, 13 Center St. in Chicopee Center, across from City Hall, at 12:00 noon local time. Enjoy lunch, conversation, and camaraderie with your fellow hams!

POTA Subgroup on HCRA Email Reflector

POTA, POTA, POTA. It's everywhere these days!

And for good reason. Go to a park, set up a portable radio and antenna and get on the air. There are hams out there who are collecting the parks for their own hunter awards. Help them to achieve that!

The HCRA now has a POTA/SOTA/Field Operating sub group. You can join for free:

https://hcra.groups.io/g/POTA

Go there and join.

Then post your operating or activating info so other HCRA members can share in your POTA activities. Photos are very welcome.

Let's share and talk this up. We can all learn more and maybe get some ideas of our own.

I look forward to reading your posts!

73,

Larry, W1AST

W1AST@arrl.net

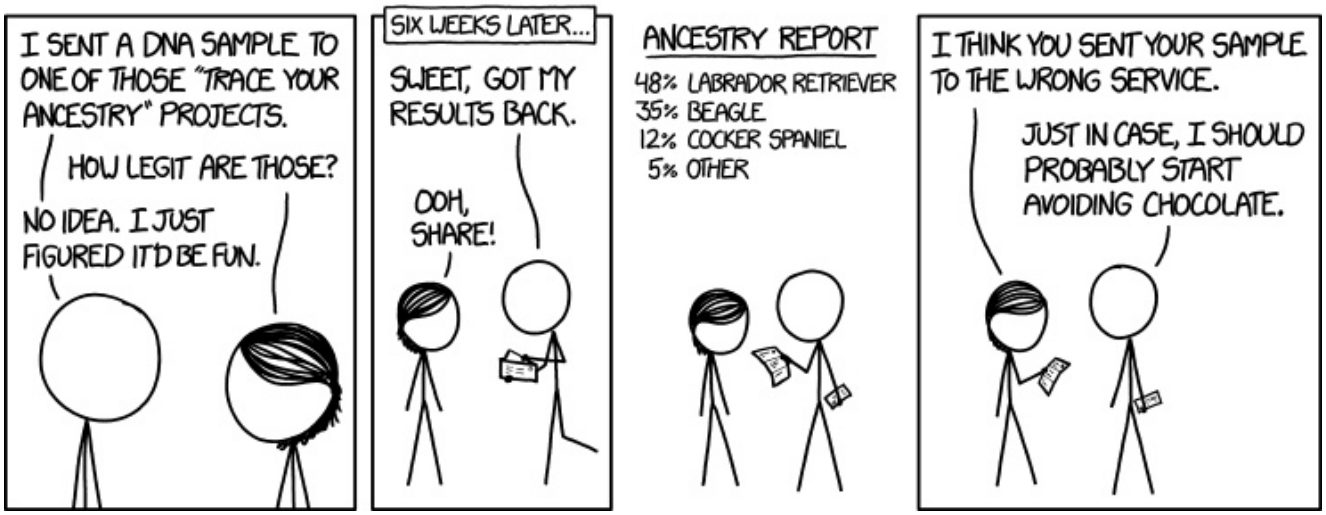
Dots and Dashes

(cont'd)

Major Upcoming Contests and State QSO Parties

January 4-5: ARRL RTTY Roundup
January 11-12: North American QSO Party, CW
January 18-19: North American QSO Party, SSB
January 25-26: Winter Field Day

(click this box for a complete monthly contest calendar)



HAM RADIO

Algonquin Amateur Radio Club
Marlborough, MA

HAM RADIO

AMATEUR RADIO

FLEA MARKET

Saturday, February 15, 2025

$200
Cash Door Prize!
To be awarded at 11:30
Must be present
to win

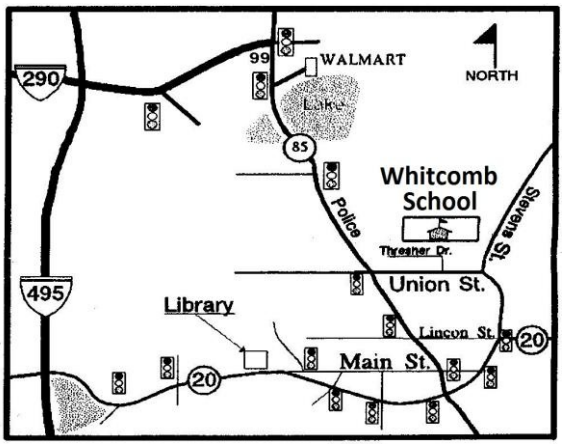
Marlborough 1Lt Charles W. Whitcomb School
(formerly Intermediate/Middle School)
25 Union St. or
off Bolton St. (Rt. 85)
Marlborough, Massachusetts

6 ft. Tables (round and rectangular)
Tables are $25.00 each if purchased by February 7, 2025 ($30.00 each accepted at the door if tables or spaces are available, no guarantees)
Tables include vendor admission for one person.

SETUP TIME: 6:30 AM
For more information email:
fleamarket@n1em.org

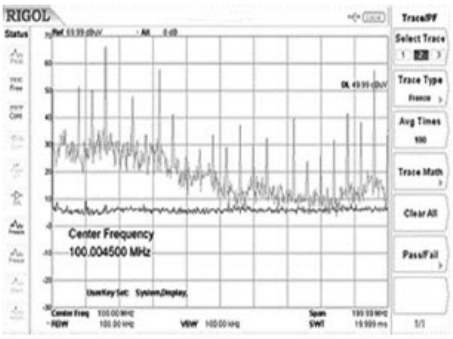
Talk In: N1EM/R 446.675 - (pl 88.5)
Updates will be on our web at:
http://n1em.org

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
General Admission: $5.00
VEC Exams: 9:00 AM



Send This Form For Table Reservations with Check Payable to:
AARC, PO Box 258, Marlborough, MA 01752 ($25.00 each table due by February 7)

Name:_____Call:_____
Address:_____ No. Tables:_____
City:_____State:_____Zip:_____
Telephone:_(____)_____Amount Enclosed: $_____.00
Email:_____



Need Help With RF Interference Issues ?

If you have been experiencing RF interference there is a WMA
resource available that's ready to assist you. Each section has
established an RF interference investigative team that can help identify and possibly remedy your problem.

To initiate your request for help you can simply send an E-mail to k1yo@arrl.net with your contact information and a description of the problem and anything you may have already tried.

A member of the WMA RFI team will contact you with directions on how to initiate the formal request for assistance. This then may require several steps / tasks on your part which provide us with essential information to guide further investigative processes.

Additionally, helpful information can be found on our RFI Troubleshooting Guide online at:
https://nediv.arrl.org/rfi-troubleshooting-guide/

We are ready to help - just give us a call !!

Local Nets & Happenings

Sundays: 8:45 am Western MA. VHF Emergency Net on 146.94, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

Sundays: 9:15 am Western MA. UHF Emergency Net on 443.200, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

1st Monday: 6:45 pm, MEMA RACES Drill, 146.49 Simplex and 3.930 LSB

Mondays: 7 pm, RACES Drill , 146.910, Mt. Greylock

Mondays: 7 pm , HCRA 10 Meter Net on 28.375, New topic every week. Have a topic to suggest? Contact kd1ku@yahoo.com

Tuesdays: 7:30 pm, 146.94, PL 127.3 - Hampshire County Emergency Net

Tuesdays: 8 pm, ARES Emergency Net, on 146.985, PL 136.5

Wednesdays: 7:30 pm, MTARA Info Net on 146.94, PL 127.3

Wednesdays: MTARA Swap net: 146.94, Following Info Net

Wednesdays: N1RLX Simplex Net, Check-In s on 146.94 then QSY to 146.42 Simplex immediately following the swap net

Wednesdays: 9 am , FCARC Experimental Net, 28.354 MHz

Thursdays: 8 pm, FCARC Information Net, 146.985 - 136.5

Club Meetings and VE Sessions

1st Friday of the month at 7:30 pm HCRA Meeting. In-Person meetings began in Sept. of 2022. Meetings start with a meet & greet at 7 pm followed by the regular meeting at 7:30pm sharp. http://www.hcra.org/

2nd Monday of the month at 7 pm, FCARC meeting. 1 Aviation Way, Turners Falls, MA. (airport). Social Hour 6-7 pm, meeting at 7 pm. http://www.fcarc.org/

2nd Saturday prior to FCARC meeting. 8 am Breakfast at Denny's Pantry, 496 Bernardston Rd. Greenfield, MA. Brad Councilman bc@councilman.com

3rd Friday of the month, MTARA Meeting, 7 pm, Castle Of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA, 01020 https://mtara.org/

4th Friday of the month, The Western Mass VE Team (WMVET) VE sessions at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Room beginning January 27th and every 4th Friday at 6pm to perform VE exams. E-mail Dave, W1FAB wa1dc@yahoo.com. Call or text 413-575-2950. Need directions? http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/

Start or Renew Your ARRL Membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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Members-Only Web Services

Technical Information Service

Member Discounts

Outgoing QSL Service

Continuing Education

ARRL as an Advocate

Regulatory Information Branch

Public Relations for Amateur Radio

ARRL Field Organization

ARRL-sponsored contests

Operating Awards

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Hamfests and Conventions

Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Program

http://www.arrl.org/membership

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